HOUSING ALLIANCE

March 16, 2021

House Committee on Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Campos, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for HB 3218, which will make technical changes to an existing program that helps residents of manufactured homes to replace their aging or destroyed manufactured home. In particular, this important bill will allow wildfire survivors to access funds to replace their homes.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices including non-profit housing developers, residents of affordable housing, local jurisdictions, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

Today, we simply don't have enough affordable homes for people who need them, and vacancy rates have dropped precipitously towards zero in communities across Oregon. People – our neighbors and members of our community – are struggling with homelessness, housing instability, rent burdens, and to make ends meet and put food on the table. During the last school year, over 21,750 of our school children in grades K – 12 experienced homelessness at some point during the year.

Manufactured home parks have been a key source of affordable housing for many residents across Oregon. In total, there are over 62,000 manufactured homes in over 1,000 communities across Oregon.[1] As land value rises, manufactured home parks may be put at higher risk of closure. Oregon has adopted many policies and strategies over the years to prevent park closures, which displace residents in need of affordable housing, and for many, results in the loss of their most valuable asset – their home.

HB 3218 makes key changes to HB 2896 (2019), in which it now allows this program to be used by wildfire survivors who have lost their manufactured homes in this last summer's devastating fires that hit especially hard in communities in Jackson County, central Oregon, and parts of the coast, destroying thousands of manufactured homes in those communities.

Over the last decade, we have seen a number of manufactured home parks being purchased by non-profits and resident owned cooperatives. These organizations help ensure long-term affordability, and stability. Resident or

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[1] Prosperity Now, Manufactured Housing Metropolitan Opportunity Profile: Data Snapshot, July 2017, https://prosperitynow.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017%20Oregon%20Data%20Snapshot.pdf

non-profit ownership mean that residents are protected from quickly escalating space rents, and they are able to make strategic and important investments in park infrastructure. HB 3218 would support the redevelopment of parks after wildfires as well.

We know what home, and what stable housing, means to all of us. When people have safe and stable housing, it has important and significant benefits, and allows people to build for their futures. Kids are able to focus on the things that matter – being kids, doing their homework – instead of worrying about where their families will sleep at night. Parents are able to focus on work, on family, and on community. Safe and stable housing that people can afford is key to accessing opportunity.

We urge you to support of HB 3218.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Loren Naldoza
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends of Oregon
211info
Aging in the Gorge
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
BRIDGE Housing
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Chrisman Development
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Creswell
City of Eugene
City of Forest Grove
City of Hillsboro
City of Hood River
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enhabit
Enterprise Community Partners
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Housing Oregon
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest
Innovative Housing, Inc.
Interfaith Alliance on Poverty
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Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Looking Glass Community Services
Mainstream Housing, Inc
Metro
Mid Columbia Housing Authority
Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp. (NEDCO)
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Christian Voices
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Law Center
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
Rogue Action Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Turning Point
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services